

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A system for minimal access soft tissue dilating and
2 retracting and nucleus pulposus excision tools for endoscopic
3 spinal surgery, comprising elements to seek the appropriate
4 trajectory, creation of soft tissue tunnel space, and retractors
5 for the tunnels.

1 2. A tapered spiral-end obturator, comprising:
2 a generally elongated cylindrical portion 221;
3 a tapered end coupled to said generally elongated cylindrical
4 portion;
5 a raised helical ridge disposed on said tapered end.

1 3. A beveled canulum, comprising a generally elongated
2 cylindrical portion coupled to a beveled end, and being
3 substantially hollow.

1 4. A debriding tool, comprising:
2 an elongated shaft;
3 a rod coupled to said elongated shaft;
4 a pair of cutting wires, said wires being coupled to said
5 shaft at a first end to said rod at a second end, wherein said

6 wires have a length slightly greater than a length of said rod so
7 as to form a loop;

8 an insulated tip coupled to an end of said rod;

9 means for connecting said wires to an electrical source.

1 5. An abrasive tool comprising:

2 an elongated shaft;

3 an abrasive ball coupled to one end of said elongated shaft.

6. A hollow shaving tool, comprising
a hollow elongated tube having an opening disposed on the
side of said tube proximate to one end of said tube;

a rotational rod positioned within said elongated tube;

a razor knife edge coupled to said rotational rod and
positioned near said opening; and

a power source coupled to said rotational rod for causing
said rotational rod to rotate.